



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/751,595	12/29/2000	Min Zhu	M-8857 US	8830

7590 11/30/2004

Philip W. Woo
c/o SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
555 CALIFORNIA STREET
SUITE 5000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104-1715

EXAMINER

ALAM, UZMA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2157

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/751,595

Applicant(s)

ZHU ET AL.

Examiner

Uzma Alam

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the amendment filed on September 10, 2004. Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-24 represent a distributed meeting management system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Butler US Patent No. 6,584,493 in view of Tang et al. US Patent No. 6,349,327. Butler discloses the invention as claimed including a conferencing and collaboration system (see abstract). Tang discloses the invention as claimed including a distributed work environment (see abstract).

As per claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 Butler discloses a method, computer program, computer readable medium and computer data signal of distributed collaborative computing comprising:

partitioning a collaboration function into sub-functions (four different processes form the collaboration process - column 8, line 54-65; column 12, lines 1-11);

assigning at least one said sub-function to each of a plurality of logical processes (the processes perform certain tasks - column 12, lines 11-41; column 13, lines 45-59);

Butler does not disclose:

Art Unit: 2157

associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process;

communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes;

Monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process.

Tang discloses: associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes, said logical processes configured so that each said logical process is capable of communicating with every other said logical process thru said respective management process (column 13, lines 43-67);

communicating between said logical processes using said respective management processes (column 13, lines 56-65; column 14, lines 18-32);

Monitoring said respective management processes with a single supervisor process (column 14, lines 1-50, column 16, lines 29-35).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the monitoring, associating, and communicating between process of Tang with the partitioning of processes of Butler. A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this to maintain lists of services being offered and to balance workload between processes.

Art Unit: 2157

As per claims 2, 8, 14 and 20 Butler discloses a method, computer program, computer readable medium and computer data signal of claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 wherein said collaboration function comprises real time conferencing (column 9, lines 36-52).

As per claims 3, 9, 15 and 21 Butler discloses a method, computer program, computer readable medium and computer data signal of claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 wherein said collaboration function comprises application sharing (column 9, lines 52-65).

As per claims 4, 10, 16 and 22 Butler discloses a method, computer program, computer readable medium and computer data signal of claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 wherein said collaboration function comprises document sharing (column 9, lines 52-65).

As per claims 5, 11, 17 and 23 Butler discloses a method, computer program, computer readable medium and computer data signal of claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 wherein said sub-function comprise collaboration serving, application serving, log serving, license management, and meeting management and wherein each said sub-function forms at least one logical server (column 11, lines 29-44).

As per claims 2, 8, 14 and 20 Butler discloses a method, computer program, computer readable medium and computer data signal of claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 wherein said logical processes are instantiated on at least one physical server (column 8, lines 54-65).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed September 10, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The references in fact teach the features of the claim. Applicant's arguments do not clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. Further, they do not show how the amendments avoid such references or objections.

In response to applicants arguments that column 13, lines 43-67 does not show the claimed feature of associating a respective management process with each of said plurality of logical processes. In Tang, the logical process and associating a respective management process are shown in by the encounter proxy object which provides application monitoring functions and distributing the applications through the network as necessary (see column 13, lines 43-67). The encounter proxy object associates management processes with the logical processes by monitoring applications, which is a management process, and then distributing the applications, which is a logical process. The applications are monitored to check for load balancing and are distributed accordingly.

The claimed feature of the communication between logical process using said respective management process is shown by binding the status message with the application identity and passing it to the encounter server (see column 13, lines 43-67). The status message that goes to the encounter server allows for communication between the logical process and the management process. When the encounter object is finished monitoring the application, it sends a message

Art Unit: 2157

relating the status of the application to the encounter server which then distributes the task accordingly.

The claimed feature of the single supervisor process is taught by the encounter proxy in Tang. The encounter proxy object teaches the supervisor process because it performs management tasks in the system. The encounter process monitors the applications and checks for even distribution between the applications.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uzma Alam whose telephone number is (571) 272-3995. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday 11:30am-8pm.

Art Unit: 2157

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Uzma Alam
November 15, 2004



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER